

# THE SPARK GAP

THE OFFICAL NEWSLETTER OF THE MID-STATE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

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August 2003

## SOLTIS

If you look hard near the back of your favorite Webster's Dictionary you might find a listing for Soltis. It's listed as both a noun and a verb. Reading further you'll find a subheading for the name Al. The definition says: talented, cantankerous, full of energy, straight talking; one who communicates. A driving force that gets things done.

You could write a book on Al Soltis-WA9ZET. Several chapters would be devoted to Al's influence in amateur radio. As a long time member of the Mid-State ARC, Al was always volunteered for club events, especially when it came to Field Day. Al was a walking resource of amateur radio knowledge. He filled the role of "Elmer" for many new hams.

As club President Al ruled with an iron but gentle fist. In fact many can remember the log he used as a gavel to bring things to order. You didn't mess with Al.

Once you got to know Al Soltis it became evident he was a devoted family man. The Pennsylvania native became well known and liked in Franklin and throughout Johnson county.

His death is not only a great loss for the community but for amateur radio as well. He will greatly missed. At the age of 75 Al Soltis-WA9ZET becomes a silent key. -W8ISH



SOLTIS

## **NOMINATIONS ARE BEING ACCEPTED FOR THE IRCC 2003 AMATEUR OF THE YEAR AWARD**

The Indiana Radio Club Council is looking for amateurs who have consistently given of their time and expertise to advance amateur radio in their club or community.

Send one or two page-DETAILED explanations about your nominee to the IRCC awards committee.

Deadline for nominations is midnight October 3, 2003.

The award for Indiana's Outstanding Amateur of the Year will be made during a special ceremony at the Ft. Wayne Hamfest in November 2003.

Send your nomination to:  
Jack Parker W8ISH  
IRCC Vice-Chairman  
[W8ISH@arrl.net](mailto:W8ISH@arrl.net)

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## **THE AUGUST M.A.R.C. MEETING**

Just a reminder of the club meeting this Saturday August 16th at 8 AM. Breakfast at Bob Evans in Franklin at 7AM and testing follows the meeting.

It's important to have everyone attend. We will nominate officers for next year.

Elections will take place at the September meeting.

This week we have a short video that Bob LaGrange would like to share and then we'll finish with our program of the day.

**"How to set up and mobile tower/trailer in case of an emergency".**

CU there.

Jack W8ISH

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## HAVING FUN AT THE FLAT ROCK RUN

On Saturday morning August 9<sup>th</sup> the members of the Mid-State Amateur Radio Club made their annual journey to the town of Flat Rock located in southern Shelby County. The club members and friends of the club have participated in this annual fund raiser for the Flat Rock Fire Department for the last few years.

This year there were a good number of walkers and runners enjoying the fresh air of Shelby County.

A dozen or so hams helped in this event by providing safety such as; stopping traffic to let the participants go through intersections of streets and roads, keeping the participants on the course of the run or walk, location of the runners and walkers, and the official start of the race.

All seemed to have fun and enjoyed the cool morning air and the wonderful breakfast of pancakes and sausage.

We will all look forward in helping with this event next year.

■ Bob N9SIU

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Bob Wood K8AGH, keeps watch of the last runner from his truck.

## ACTIVITY CALENDAR

August 31<sup>st</sup>, Combined Event ~ Johnson County Horse Park, starts 7AM to 12 PM

September 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>, MARC annual yard sale at the Whiteland home of JR and Carol Osborne.

September 27<sup>th</sup>, "Tailgate Hamfest" Shelbyville sponsored by Blue River Amateur Radio Society

September 27<sup>th</sup>, Greenwood HS Marching Band Competition

October 18th MARC club picnic at Johnson County Park 11a.m.

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## GREENWOOD H.S. MARCHING BAND COMPETITION

You know that fall is here by the sound of band music from the finest marching bands in our nation and you can hear them at local high school band competitions. Greenwood High School has hosted a marching band competition for over twenty years. This year will prove to be an exciting musical event as marching bands from around the state come to Greenwood.

As many as fifteen bands have participated in four divisions. The bands also attract many fans and family members to watch the competition. This is where hams can be of great assistance.

Once again we have been asked to help with parking and assistance during this event. The Greenwood HS band parent organization has been grateful for the excellent job we do consistently year after year. To them we are not just ham radio operators but a professional and well disciplined group that provides a valuable service.

All that help will have access to food and a break room. This is a large event and all are needed, you can even bring a friend to help if you like

The event takes place Saturday September 27<sup>th</sup>, at Greenwood High School, West Smith Valley Road. in Greenwood. The bands will start arriving about 2: 00 PM, four or five hams are needed to park cars near the football field. The majority of the larger sized bands will start to arrive about 4:30 or 5:00 PM. There will be a need for 10 to 12 hams to help when the masses of bands and people arrive. Last year with the total of band members and spectators there were about 2,500 people or more.

Please mark your calendars, charge-up that extra battery pack of your favorite HT and help with this event.

Contact Bob N9SIU for more information.

Ph#: 885-7409 (evenings) or 233-0939 (work)

e-mail: [n9siu@yahoo.com](mailto:n9siu@yahoo.com)

## M.A.R.C. GARAGE SALE RESCHEDULED

The MARC Garage Sale will be here before you know it. You still have time to contribute your used and/or new items to this very worthwhile event. It will be held at the home of JR(KB9HSE) and Carol (KC9CFK) Osborne.

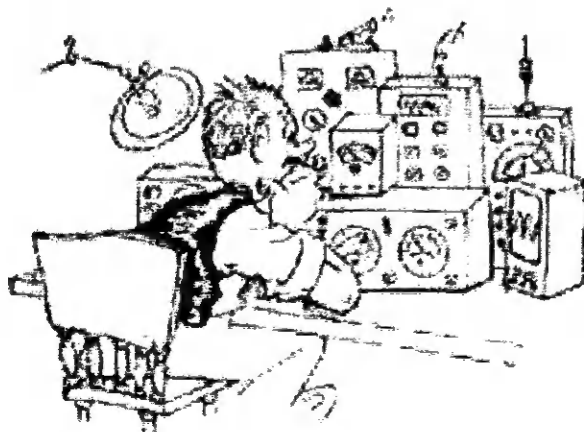
The Garage Sale will take place on Friday September 26<sup>th</sup> and Saturday September 27<sup>th</sup>, 10 AM to 4 PM.

Location is at 149 Mooreland Drive, Whiteland

Contact Carol at : 535-3922 for more information.

All donations will be accepted and the money raised will go to club projects.

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How does your "shack" look?  
Pictures wanted!!